



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 16, 2022

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Kyle L. Guerrant, Deputy Superintendent
Finance and Operations KG

SUBJECT: Important Federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and
Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Funding Update

The U.S. Department of Education (USED) sent a letter to school superintendents' national association, on Friday, May 13, 2022, which clarified that **districts may have until April 2026 to spend the American Rescue Plan funds**. Please see the link to the source document: [Late-Liquidation-Letter.pdf \(ed.gov\)](#)

The letter provides the following new information:

- If approved, districts could have an additional 18 months to liquidate all ARP ESSER III funding beyond the end of the obligation period of September 30, 2024, specified in federal law.
- Any ESSER III-funded contract for goods and services **outside of construction or facilities** (such as curriculum, tutoring, or mental health services) could be eligible for an 18-month liquidation extension by USED, if the contract is signed before the statutorily set obligation timeline and the state education agency (SEA) approves of the local education agency (LEA) request for extended liquidation in accordance with 2 CFR § 200.344(b).
- The enacted September 30, 2024, deadline for obligation of ARP ESSER III funds is based on statutory and regulatory federal requirements.

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The Michigan Department of Education anticipates additional guidance from USED on this subject and will share it as soon as it is available. During a recent webinar hosted by the Council of Chief State School Officers, USED shared with SEAs that the anticipated additional liquidation extension guidance and criteria would be provided to states in July 2022.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments